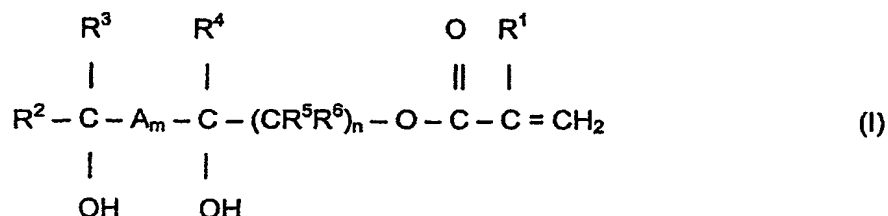


## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for preparing ~~compounds~~ a compound of the formula I

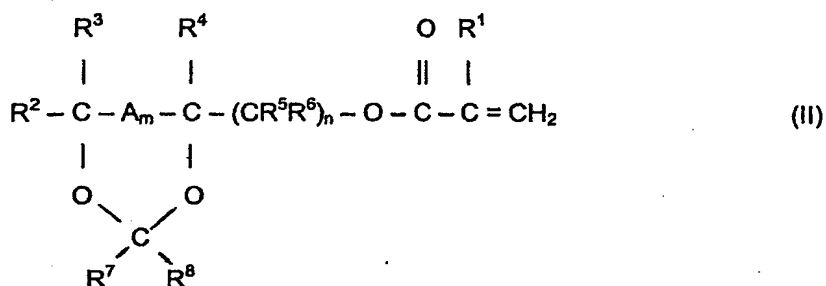


where

$R^1$      $[[=]]$     is H or  $CH_3$   
 $A$         $[[=]]$     is  $(CH_2)$  where m ~~may assume~~ has the values of 0 or 1,  
 $R^{2-6}$     $[[=]]$     ~~may be~~ are the same or different and ~~assume the definitions of~~ are OH, H, aliphatic or aromatic hydrocarbon, ~~for example methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, (etc-),~~

$n$  ~~may assume~~ has the values of 0, 1 or 2,  
~~characterized in that~~ comprising reacting

~~compounds~~ a compound of the formula II



,where  $R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6, A, m$  and  $n$  are each as defined above and  $R^7$  and  $R^8$  may be the same or different and ~~may assume the definitions of~~ are methyl, ethyl or propyl, ~~are reacted~~ with water in small amounts wherein the  $[[ ( ) ]]$  ratio of compound (II) to water is between 1:1 and 1:3 $[[ ( ) ]]$  over an acidic ion exchanger in a fixed bed, and the resulting compound III



is removed continuously from the reaction medium.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein stabilization against polymerization and discoloration is effected with tocopherol derivatives.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein stabilization against polymerization and discoloration is effected with tocopherol in an amount of 10 ppm - 1000 ppm based on the monomer mixture.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): ~~The use of the monomer mixture obtainable according to one of the preceding claims~~ A method for producing a contact lenses lens comprising utilizing the compound of Formula I produced by the process as claimed in Claim 1 to produce the contact lens.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): ~~The use of the monomer mixture obtainable according to one of the preceding claims~~ A method for producing a water-soluble polymers polymer comprising utilizing the compound of Formula I produced by the process as claimed in Claim 1 to produce the water-soluble polymer.

Claim 6 (New): The process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein  $R^{2-6}$  are the same or different and are methyl, ethyl, propyl or isopropyl.